

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /084 W
-----012306Z 123813 /44

R 311312Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5492

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, CI, US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: VIEWS OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHILEAN
AMBASSADOR

1. AT RECEPTION MARCH 27 IN BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE (HE IS DEAN OF LATINOS IN CAIRO), OAS SECRETARY
GENERAL ORFILA AND LATER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR NUNO DISCUSSED WITH
DCM IN CRITICAL TERMS CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICIES.

2. ORFILA SAID HIS TALKS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICANS
SHOWED A SENSE OF OUTRAGE AT WHAT APPEARED TO BE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPT TO LECTURE TO OAS
COUNTRIES ON THEIR TREATMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. HE
RUEFULLY SAID THAT AS A SUPPORTER OF US POLICIES AND
EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA, HE HAD
BEEN DISMAYED AT REACTION OF OAS AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR
ARGENTINE OFFICIALS TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION
PRONOUNCEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HE SAID HE WAS
AFRAID THAT RESULT OF WHAT WE WERE SAYING WAS SOMETHING
CLOSE TO UNIFICATION OF LATIN AMERICANS AGAINST US AND DEEP
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RESENTMENT AT WHAT WAS REGARDED AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR
DOMESTIC OR PURELY LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE
STATED FLATLY THAT AS A MINIMUM WE HAD ENSURED THE
UNITY OF BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, CHILE AND URUGUAY AGAINST
US LACK OF COMPREHENSION. ORFILA PREDICTED UNHAPPY
RESULTS FOR US IN ITS ARA POLICY AS RESULT. ORFILA
CONTINUED THAT HE HAD BEEN BACK TO BUENOS AIRES RECENTLY

AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEFORE ENCOUNTERED SUCH VEHEMENT UNHAPPINESS OVER US POLICIES. HE CLAIMED THAT AS EXPERIENCED OBSERVER OF US SCENE THROUGH MANY CAMPAIGNS, HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GIVE SOME REASSURANCE TO ARGENTINE LEADERS THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS SINCERE IN ATTEMPTS TO FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS WITH LA'S, AND THAT ITS DETERMINATION TO PURSUE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WAS SINCERE AND DEEPLY ROOTED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S OWN BELIEFS. NEVERTHELESS HE FORESAW A PERIOD OF CONSIDERABLE TURBULENCE IN US-LA RELATIONSHIPS.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER ABOVE CONVERSATION, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR NUNO DREW DCM ASIDE FOR ANIMATED CONVERSATION LARGELY REPETITIVE OF ABOVE BUT MORE EMOTIONAL IN CONTENT. NUNO WAS AIR FORCE GENERAL AND SERVED, HE CLAIMS, UNWILLINGLY UNDER ALLENDE REGIME; WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED TO WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE TRAUMATIC TOUR AS AMBASSADOR IN BELGIUM; AND CAME HERE LATE LAST YEAR. DCM AND WIFE, WHO SPEAK SPANISH, HAVE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS OF NUNOS, AND HAVE HAD SIMILAR BUT NEVER SO EMOTIONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILEAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE. NUNO ASKED WHY USG HAD SIGNLED OUT FOUR FRIENDLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR CRITICISM OVER HUMAN RIGHTS; HE COULD ASSURE DCM THOSE FOUR WERE NOW UNITED IF IN NOTHING ELSE EXASPOERATION AT US POSTURE. HE WOULD GLADLY PUT PRESENT CIVIL RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE UP AGAINST THAT IN EGYPT; HOW COULD WE BE SO UNBALANCED IN OUR APPROACH AS TO IGNORE EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND CALL FOR EVENTUAL RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES SUCH

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AS CUBA, ANGOLA, CAMBODIA, AND OTHERS WHERE RIGHTS WERE FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED? AS WE WERE SURELY AWARE FIDEL WAS TRAVELING AROUND AFRICA STIRRING UP NEW TROUBLES FOR THE FREE WORLD AND YET WE WERE TALKING ABOUT RENEWING RELATIONS.

3. IN FINAL RATHER BITTER COMMENT, AMBASSADOR NUNO SAID FONMIN FAHMY HAD RECENTLY TOLD HIM FRANKLY EGYPT WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST CHILE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORA BECAUSE OF NEED TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THIRD WORLD. NUNO SAID THIS POSITION OF EGYPT WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE, GIVEN EGYPT'S CONCERN OVER CUBA'S INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND CHILE'S STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-CASTRO POSITION. AMBASSADOR NUNO SAID AS FRIEND OF US HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH AND ASKED FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHO OUR FIENDS IN LA AND FREE WORLD REALLY WERE. IN PARTING SHOT HE ASSERTED WE HAD SAID THAT IF COUNTRIES RECEIVING AID WERE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT

TO US, WE WOULD IGNORE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT OF ESSENTIAL NATIONS. HE FORCEFULLY ASKED WHETHER WE WERE REALLY CONFIDENT THAT SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT STRATEGIC AREA FOR US NATIONAL INTERESTS.

COMMENT: THESE TWO CONVERSATIONS IN VOLUBLE SPANISH WERE CONDUCTED IN INTENSE BUT SORROWFUL FASHION, AS IF THESE EXPERIENCED INTERLOCUTORS WERE CONVINCED THAT US WAS SINCERE BUT MISGUIDED. BOTH ORFILA AND NUNO HOWEVER EVIDENCED GREAT DISCOMFORT OVER WHAT THEY REGARDED AS DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF OUR NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY. THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION THEY LEFT WAS ONE OF BAFFLEMENT AT WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO DO, CONSTERNATION AT OUR METHODS, BUT HOPE THAT SOMEHOW WE WOULD IN THE END UNDERSTAND REALITIES OF SITUATION IN LA AND REST OF WORLD. NOT REPORTED ABOVE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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DCM'S COUNTER-ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR POLICY IN WHICH HE DREW UPON RECENT INSTRUCTIONS AND WIRELESS FILE MATERIAL, INCLUDING PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER AND DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ORFILA AND NUNO LISTED POLITELY BUT SEEMD UNCONVINCED MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, PERSONAL OPINION, SECRETARY GENERAL, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO05492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770113-0775
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaadch.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 78b7d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3049689
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: VIEWS OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHILEAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: SHUM, AR, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/78b7d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009